



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 23, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 104 939 609
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Jim Whitman, Chief Operating Officer
Damon Estate
999 Bishop Street, Suite 2800
Honolulu, HI 96813

NOTICE REGARDING VERMICULITE

Response requested within 10 days of receipt of this letter

Dear Mr. Whitman:

This notice is being sent to help track down asbestos-bearing vermiculite which was shipped to a vermiculite exfoliation plant formerly located on your property. Vermiculite may have contaminated your property with asbestos, exposing on-site workers and nearby communities to the risk of cancer and lung disease.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently responding to environmental conditions at the Libby Asbestos Site located in Libby, Montana. For nearly 100 years the mine at this Site was one of the largest producers of vermiculite ore which was processed and shipped to facilities across the country for use in a variety of insulation and construction materials, as a carrier for seed, fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals, and as a soil amendment. It has been determined that the vermiculite ore produced from this Site also contained asbestos. EPA is contacting owners of property where a facility was located which received asbestos-containing vermiculite or ore from the Libby Asbestos Site. This is to advise you and current occupants of the possibility of contamination from the use of asbestos-containing vermiculite.

From available records received from the mine operator, EPA has determined that shipments of Libby Mine vermiculite ore may have been sent to:

Vermiculite of Hawaii, 842-A Mapunapuna Street, Honolulu, HI

Activities that would increase the possibility of release of potentially harmful quantities of asbestos from the vermiculite ore include those processes that involve heating and expanding the vermiculite ore (exfoliation) and grinding or pulverizing the vermiculite

ore. From available information, EPA believes these operations were conducted at the facility shown above.

Because the property was formerly the site of a vermiculite exfoliation plant, EPA wishes to conduct a preliminary assessment with sampling at this time to determine whether or not contamination from vermiculite exists.

A CONSENT FOR ACCESS FORM IS ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER. WITHIN TEN DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER PLEASE RETURN THE SIGNED FORM TO:

Hedy Ficklin, On-Scene Coordinator
US EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street SFD-6
San Francisco, CA 94105

You will be contacted to schedule the assessment. If you have any questions regarding this notice please call Hedy Ficklin at (415) 744-2224 or Michael Hingerty, Senior Counsel, Office of Regional Counsel, at (415) 744-1357.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Feeley", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Feeley
Deputy Director, Superfund Division

CONSENT FOR ACCESS TO PROPERTY

Name: Jim Whitman, Damon Estate

Address

of Property: 842-A Mapunapuna Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

I consent to officers, employees, contractors, and authorized representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) entering and having continued access to this property for the following purposes:

Conducting monitoring, sampling activity and preliminary assessment;

Performing other actions to investigate contamination on the property that U.S. EPA may determine to be necessary; and

Taking any response action to address any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant which U.S. EPA determines may pose an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or the environment.

I realize that these actions taken by U.S. EPA are undertaken pursuant to its response and enforcement responsibilities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq.

This written permission is given by me voluntarily, on behalf of myself and all other co-owners of this property, with knowledge of my right to refuse and without threats or promises of any kind.

Date

Signature